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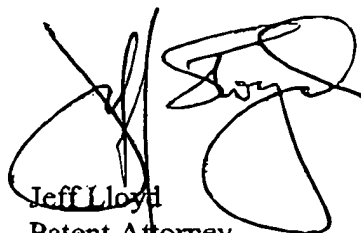
Docket No. USF-T150CX
Serial No. 09/955,174Remarks

Claims 1-37 are pending in the subject application. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 4, 5, and 13. Support for the amendments to claims 4, 5, and 13 can be found throughout the specification. Amendments to claims 25 and 26 have been made to correct obvious typographical errors and no new matter has been added as a result of these amendments. Entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested. Upon entry, claims 1-37 will remain before the Examiner.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account 19-0065 any fees under 37.CFR 1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper.

Applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



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Marked-Up Claims

5. (amended) The method of Claim 4 in which the genetic construct comprises an anti-sense polynucleotide, a polynucleotide that [bind] binds to SHIP mRNA, a nucleic acid that hybridizes to a SHIP mRNA, an interfering RNA specific for SHIP mRNA, a recombinant retroviral vector, a ribozyme, an RNA aptamer, a peptidomimetic [inhibitors] inhibitors of SHIP function, or a combination [thereof] or any of the foregoing.

13. (amended) The method of Claim 12, in which the genetic construct comprises an anti-sense polynucleotide, a polynucleotide that bind to SHIP mRNA, a nucleic acid that hybridizes to a SHIP mRNA, an interfering RNA specific for SHIP mRNA, a recombinant retroviral vector, a ribozyme, an RNA aptamer, and a peptidomimetic, inhibitors of SHIP function, or a combination thereof.

25. (amended) A method for screening a substance suspected of inhibiting SHIP function, comprising:

(1) allowing SHIP to react with a SHIP substrate in the presence of the substance, and taking a first measurement of a signal that indicates the extent of the SHIP/substrate reaction;

(2) allowing SHIP to react with a SHIP substrate in the absence of the substance, and taking a second measurement of the same signal that indicates the extent of the SHIP/substrate reaction; and

(3) comparing the first and the second measurements, whereby a substance that inhibits SHIP function is selected.

26. (amended) The method according to Claim 25, wherein the SHIP substrate is selected from the group consisting of Shc, Grb2, the FcRIIB Receptor, PIP3, and IP4, or a modification thereof.[\]